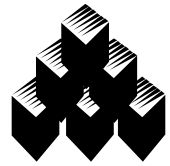




BOSCH PROPERTY MANAGEMENT CO



Media information, 27 November 2017

Trespass notices for vandals last resort

Two Masterton landlords are taking a stand on ongoing vandalism by children as young as eight by seeking tenant approval to issue trespass notices to known offenders, and in some instances their parents.

Community-owned Masterton Trust Lands Trust (MTLT) and Bosch Property Management have each written to their tenants with the proposal as a further attempt to curb the growing problem.

Between them, the two organisations own a large number of properties in central Masterton.

MTLT property has sustained more than \$15,000 damage over the past few months with Bosch Property Management reporting similar issues. It has included broken windows, smashed bathrooms, graffiti, setting off fire alarms and fires lit in and around buildings. Theft and intimidation of business owners and their staff and clients were also problems.

MTLT general manager Andrew Croskery said the vandalism was happening almost every week and had increased in the past few months.

“Constantly repairing this senseless damage means there is less money to distribute as grants to the Masterton community,” Andrew Croskery said.

Bosch Property manager Gary Stewart said both organisations had been working with police on how to tackle the problem. A small number of offenders are known to be causing most of the damage, but as they are minors police do not have the power to penalise them or parents.

“The right solution is to always get engagement from the family with the police and youth services but for some people that approach is not working,” Mr Stewart said.

“We’re asking our tenants for approval before we issue any trespass notice for a property. This is not something we wanted to do but it is one of the few options left available to try and prevent this behaviour.

“We hope that by getting agreement from enough tenants and other business owners to issue trespass notices on their behalf, the message will get through. There are potentially a large number of shops and other properties that offenders would not be able to access for a minimum of six months.”

Under the law, trespass notices can be issued by any property owner for any reason.

Vandals have recently struck other parts of Masterton including the cricket pitch and pavilion at QEII Park and the new netball complex under construction on Colombo Road.

Ends